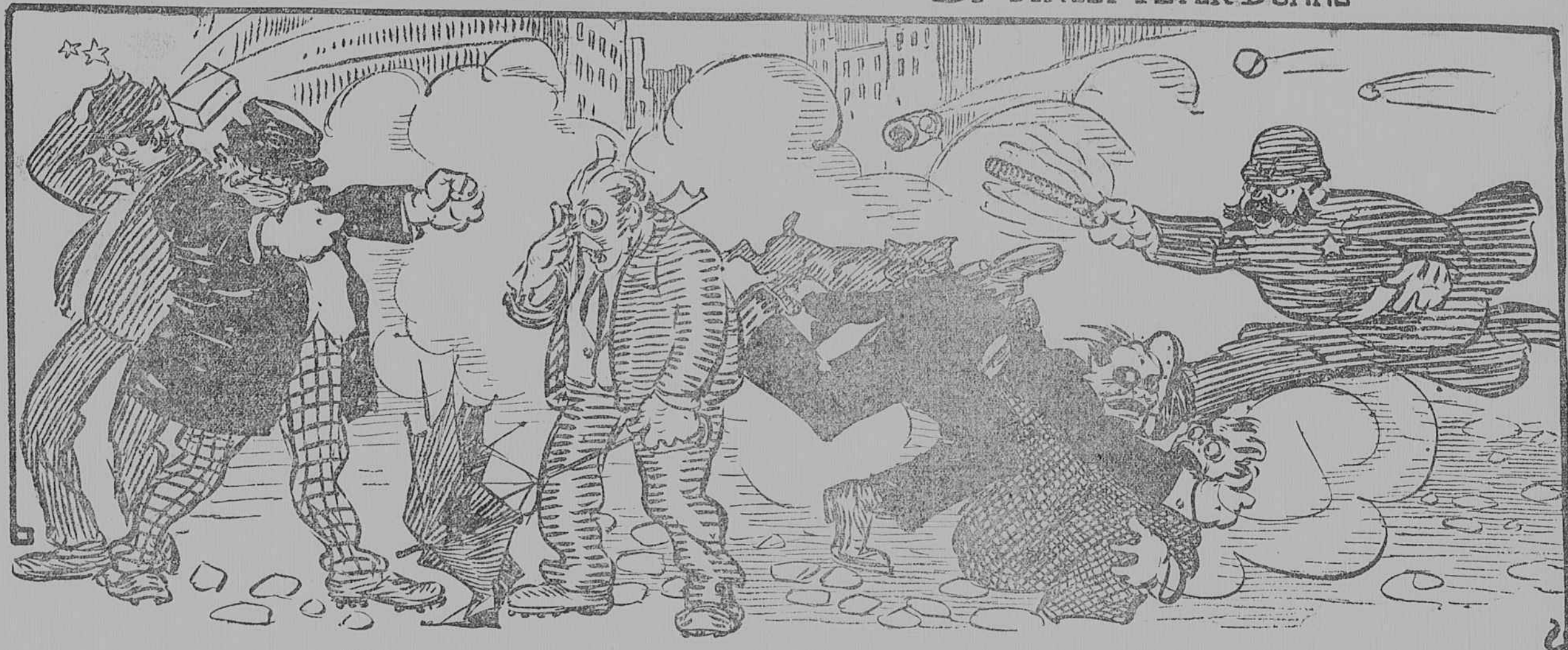


# MR. DOOLEY

# ON THIS QUEER CAMPAIGN

By FINLEY PETER DUNNE



"Fri'nds that didn't used to come to blows till October ar-re already rollin' in the sthreet's."

"WELL, sir," said Mr. Dooley, "Hogan was in here today, an' I ast him if he was out f'r anny pollytickal office this fall."

"Ye bet I am," he says. "I'm a candiyate f'r prisidintial ilictor, an' I'll want ye'er help." "Why, me poor fri'nd, it can't be that bad with ye," says I. "Have ye lost all ye'er influence with Roger, that ye shud sink so low in ye'er pollytickal ambition? Cudden't ye get to be dep'ty coroner, or bailiff, or something else honorable? Come," says I, "don't be discouraged. Be a man. Think it over a little longer. Consult with ye'er fri'nds. We ought to be able to find somethin' f'r ye. Don't," says I, "put ye'erself into a position where th' neighbors can p'int th' finger iv scorn at ye'er childher an' say that their pah-pah, who had been a bridgetender in eighteen-eighty-nine, had sunk so low as a staesman in nineteen-twelve that he'd accepted a job as prisidintial ilictor," says I. But Hogan winked his eye an' says he: "If it's as good as it looks, I wudden't thrade it f'r a life term as county treasurer," he says. An' thin he explained it to me.

"Ye see, 'tis this way, Hinnessy: Durin' all me pollytickal life, makin' a man a prisidintial ilictor was jist th' same as sinnin' him to th' pound. Whin a man had been forced to th' edge iv th' pa-arty th' leader says: 'Now, boys, we'll push him over. We'll make him a prisidintial ilictor.' If all th' prisidintial ilictors I've iver known was gathered together, they wudden't have pollytickal influence enough to git a fri'nd app'inted to a cart in th' sthreet cleanin' department. If a man wasn't aven sthrong enough to be an ambassadure, he was made an ilictor. All that was asked was that he shud be respectable an' had done somethin' f'r th' pa-arty which it didn't appreciate enough to put him on th' ticket f'r a county office. Whin th' good fellows had filled all th' jobs that had vouchers attached to them, they insulted wan iv th' candiyates whose vote was put down as 'scatterin' be namnin' him to name th' prisidint.

"It was diff'rent fr'm th' way th' fathers iv th' country had intinded it. 'Twas their idee, Hogan says, to have th' ignorant voters get together an' pick out a fine lot iv intelligint men who'd assimble in Wash'n'ton an' choose somebody like Jawn Adams f'r prisidint. But there was manny a thing th' fathers iv th' country planned that didn't happen th' way they thought it wud, an' this was wan iv them. In time th' ignorant voter took it away fr'm th' higher intelligences, which is a way th' ignorant voter has, an' says he: 'I'm too busy to go down to Wash'n'ton to till congress who I want to be prisidint. I'll pick out some wan to do it f'r me. Here, me good fellow, ye look as if ye hadn't annything else to do. Do ye jump on a thrain an' hurry down to th' capital an' let them know there that

I'm f'r So-and-So f'r prisidint an' So-and-So f'r vice prisidint. An' don't ye git th' names mixed, or it's into th' river ye go whin ye come back.' So th' ilictors met in their respectable states, accordin' to th' constitution, an' a full account iv their deliberations was printed in th' German newspapers. Wan ilictor was selected fr'm each state to go to Wash'n'ton with th' glad tidings. At th' capital they were welcomed with hearty laughter, an' about th' time th' prisidint-ilict had completed his cabinet an' larned his inauguration speech be heart an' was on'y waitin' f'r his new suit to come home fr'm th' tailors, before hoppin' into th' White House, they assimbled in solemn conclave an' ilicted him prisidint. An' whin they came back an' announced to th' Ignorant Voter that they'd done his biddin', says he: 'It's a good thing f'r ye ye did. Ye can now disperse peacefully to ye'er homes. I won't want ye anny more.'

"But Hogan says th' smart fellows has jist larned that th' collidge iv ilictors, as 'tis called, has as manny rights as iver it had, an' they're goin' to restore their ancient institution. He says an ilictor can vote f'r annybody he wants to, an' it don't make anny diff'rence how he's instructed, no more thin it does to th' Illinois dillygates to a Republican conviction. There's another thing about it, he says, an' that is, d'ye mind, that a prisidintial ilictor can't be pinched f'r havin' his legitimate expenses to an' fr'm Wash'n'ton, be way iv Iceland, Berin' sthraits, an' Siberya, with a stopover in Paris, paid f'r be a candiyate. In fact, says he, an ilictor cud stand in front iv th' capitol buildin' with a coal scuttle in his hand, rayceivin' contributions f'r his vote, an' ne'er a policeman wud dare to aven ast him to move on. 'I got that fr'm little Levi, th' lawyer,' says he. 'But don't ye till anny wan. If some iv th' big fellows got onto it, 'twud not be th' loikes iv me that cud crowd into th' job, for there'd be hardly wan iv our leaders that wudden't be aither it. It's a goolden opporchunity,' he says. 'But ye can't take it,' says I. 'Why not?' says he. 'Ye'll have to come home,' I says, 'sometime,' I says.

"'Twud be int'restin', Hinnessy, if th' fathers iv th' country cud come back an' see what has happened while they've been away. Nawthin' wud plaze me better thin to have Alexandher Hamilton an' Thomas Jefferson an' Benjamin Franklin sittin' at that table, with a pitcher iv rum between them. I'd like to see them, in their knee breeches an' buckled shoes an' wigs, except f'r Benjamin Franklin, who wore all th' hair he had down his back. Ye wudden't git on with all iv them, Hinnessy. Alexandher Hamilton wud speak iv ye as a worthy artisan, an' ye'd fire something at him. Thomas Jefferson wud ast people in off th' sthreet to let them see him shake hands with ye. But ye an' Benjamin Franklin wud be cheek be jowl in a minyit, an' he'd be instruetin' ye how to shove a wheelbarrow without sthrainin'

ye'er back an' givin' ye a cure f'r rhoumatism that'd put King Looley iv France on his legs an' tellin' ye th' best way to cure a leak in a wather pipe. But I'd git on with all iv them. I'd show them th' sights. I'd p'int out th' tall buildin's to them, an' th' sthreet's crowded with autymobills, an' th' magnificent parks with their 'Keep off th' grass' signs, an' th' moymints iv industhreel progress, with pathritotic citizens, who were born free an' akel, but niver got anny beither, shovelin' slag in overalls an' red flannel undershirts. But if they started to ast about how th' government they'd planned f'r us had turned out, I'd change th' subjick. It ain't a bad government, mind ye. I ain't got money enough to despair iv th' republic ivry time Bill Bryan makes a speech. I've niver despaired iv th' republic. Th' republic may despair iv me, but not me iv it. Whin I think iv th' things I have done to th' republic with me vote, an' th' things th' republic has done f'r me, I can't honestly say I've got anny right to go ar-round despairing iv it. Anyhow, it won't do anny good. No, sir, it ain't a bad government,

but it ain't annything like what them ol' la-ads laid out. Th' trouble with them was they tried to do too much f'r Posterity. It's always a mistake. To tell Posterity how it must govern itself wud be like George Wash'n'ton handin' down his silk knee breeches to ye an' expectin' ye to wear them to church. Ye cud on'y wear them daintily if ye were a futball player.

"Fathers iv a country ar-re like fathers in all other families—they want to plan ivrything in advance f'r their childher. A man will look down on a little, yellin', spotless angel in a crib an' say: 'I'm goin' to save me precyous wan fr'm th' sorrows that spoiled me life. I'll arrange ivrything f'r him. I'll send him to school, an' thin to college. He'll study law an' become th' leader iv

th' bar. He'll marry at twenty-eight a lady iv twenty-five. They'll have about eight childher. He'll make a comfortable fortune an' settle down in his old age to inje th' respect iv all who know him, an' will die at ninety. While I'm about it, I might as well ordier a narie plate f'r his coffin. Ye can't be too forehanded about these things.' An' lo, an' behold, th' child is, like as not, to be bounced fr'm school, become a horse thrainer, clope with a trapeze performer, an' die fr'm fallin' out iv a parachute in Beloochistan. No, I'm glad th' ol' fellows can't come back. 'Twud startle them too much."

"It's a quare campaign it's goin' to be," said Mr. Hennessy.

"It is that," said Mr. Dooley, "but an injyeable wan. It's manny years since I seen a campaign open up so 'arly an' so j'yously. It is now July, but things are bein' said about th' candiyates that in other years wud seem spirited th' day before iliction. Manny onpleasant truths ar-re bein' told, an' manny akelly divartin' lies. All th' inside hith'ry iv th' Republican pa-arty is bein' laid bare, an' it's almost as bad as I have often said it was, without knowin' annything about it. Facts about th' gr-reast staesmen iv all pa-alties ar-re comin' to light that will require explainin' in th' home circle. Pollytickians that wanst used th' same ladder ar-re now kickin' it down while they're still on it. Fri'nds that didn't used to come to blows till October ar-re already rollin' in th' sthreet's, an' where there were wanst on'y two men shakin' their fists in each other's faces there ar-re now at laste three. It's goin' to be th' ind of th' female suffrage movemint. Th' ladies is most onforchnit in comin' along jist at this time. Whin this campaign gets started they'll see that pollyticks is no place f'r women an' childher, an' stay at home."

"Who's goin' to be ilicted? Hogan says no wan. He says th' iliction will be split up so that it will be thrown into congress, an' they won't agree, an' thin th' hopes an' prayers iv ninety millyon people will be answered be who-d'ye-think step-pin' into th' prisidintial chair? Ye'll niver guess. Nobody but that sterlin' pathrit an' staesman, our old fri'nd Jim Sherman, th' gr-reastest vice prisidint we've had, since Fairbanks. 'Tis so. Hogan showed it to me in th' constitution, in black an' white. If no wan else is ilicted, Jim Sherman becomes prisidint. He'll make a good wan. No wan in our time has more faithfully administered all th' jooties iv a vice prisidint thin this fav'rite child iv Utica."

"What has he done?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Ivrything required iv him be th' constitution," said Mr. Dooley. "Niver in th' hith'ry iv our land has th' sinit pages been undher more perfect control."

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